



# *THE* Macdonald Farm Journal

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F A R M • S C H O O L • H O M E





# The Diploma Course in Agriculture at Macdonald College



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## Comparing Farm and Non-Farm Incomes

Comparisons between farm and non-farm incomes are continually being made. Usually the comparisons are made in order to compare welfare in farming with welfare in some other sector of the economy. Sometimes the comparisons are made in order to compare efficiency. Whatever their purpose, comparisons of farm and non-farm incomes, if they are to be valid, must be made with care.

Of basic importance in a valid comparison of farm and non-farm income is the selecting of the non-farm group with which farm income is to be compared. If the comparison claims or implies that there should be equivalence of income between the farm and non-farm groups being compared, then these groups must be similar in certain important respects. The non-farm group should be a family enterprise with self-employment of the operator and with unpaid family labour. Also required are long and irregular hours, equivalent risk and unlimited liability, a similar amount of invested capital, and an equivalent degree of skill. In making comparisons, income earned by the family from outside sources cannot be ignored.

If income comparisons are to be made between dissimilar groups (due to habit or to lack of data or to compare efficiency, etc.) then the differences must be recognized, stated, and full allowance made.

In the last analysis, a valid comparison cannot be made entirely on the basis of money income, because there often is some income in kind involved, and also elusive intangible sources of satisfaction. A value can be estimated for income in kind, but no satisfactory method has yet been devised for comparing intangible ("psychic") income. Furthermore, cash income comparisons, at least in the short run, may not reflect changes in the value of assets.

In a dynamic economy like Canada, there are varying pressures upon producers to "trim" their output and operations to suit the changing pattern of demand. The promptness or lag with which farmers respond is a basic factor determining their income position. Research is needed to estimate the probable direction and strength of shifts in the future markets for farm products. Also a better understanding is needed of the various policies which affect the rate at which agriculture adjusts to changing market trends and to rising productivity. Better education and extension services as well as research are crucial in this respect.

Farm policies should try harder to enable farmers to earn a fair income for themselves. The best way to preserve the family farm, for example, is to promote conditions of farming which enable the farm family to earn a decent standard of living.

The question of whether a fair relationship can be established between farm and non-farm incomes cannot be solved without taking into account another question: how many farmers are really needed to produce the various food requirements of the nation? In other words, the two reasons mentioned at the outset for making comparisons between farm and non-farm incomes (welfare and efficiency) cannot be separated in any worthwhile policy designed to improve the relative position of farm incomes. This is because "fairness" in matters such as farm and non-farm incomes is a many-sided thing. It must not only be fair to producers and consumers but also to taxpayers, and fair to these interests not just this year but in the future too.

### Our Cover Picture

The corn harvesting scene used on the cover this month is printed by courtesy of Allis-Chalmers Ltd.

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*We Might Get*

## Higher Profits with Lower Trees

by C. D. Taper

**T**ODAY, with costs soaring, the Canadian apple grower is eyeing the pint sized tree. He looks at the old orchards and wonders. He sees scarce and costly labour climbing into the tops of the present 20 to 30 footers. Is he losing money in picking the high tops? Would it not be better if the trees were smaller than standard size? If half the crop could be picked from six to eight foot ladders, and the remainder from the ground, harvesting time would be greatly reduced. Pruning might become a small job. Perhaps spraying would be easier and cheaper.

He thinks: Would I not be better off with a tree which will be in full production in ten years, which will fruit for twenty years and then, perhaps, be out of the picture to be replaced by new trees? Such trees can be more closely planted. I would get better use from my land.

In the fruit business the real money is made on relatively young trees. Every orchardist knows this; yet it is as difficult to dispose of an old planting as it is to part from an old friend. In some localities the old plantings are no better than derelicts. They bother the farmer and confuse the markets.

What is the answer to these problems? The small tree is one. No doubt of it. Yet, is there a small tree for Canada? There is much misunderstanding concerning this. At Dixie, and a few other places in Ontario, there are small apple orchards on the English dwarfing root, Malling IX. It may be that in the Okanagan valley of British Columbia the so called apple hedge has reached a suf-

**Dwarf fruit trees have been known for a long time. They have been planted in the orchards of Europe, and in the diminutive, landscaped gardens of Japan. In England most fruit trees are on dwarfing or semi-dwarfing rootstocks. To us in Canada, these stocks are new.**

ficiently advanced stage for some of the growers to try it out. Yet, so far, the big sale of Malling IX has not been for commercial orchards but for home gardens. It is still true that one swallow fails to make a summer, and a few precariously grown Malling IXs do not make a Canadian dwarf apple tree. The matter remains in the experimental stage. Nevertheless, progress is being made. Some day we shall have a smaller apple tree, and that may not be far distant.

Our more important commercial apple varieties form relatively large trees. How can they be kept or made small, or kept lower in height? Several methods are possible. Many common varieties grafted upon a dwarfing rootstock will derive from it a stunted growth habit. The growth of a tree may be stopped by inverting a narrow ring of bark upon the trunk. Twisting a young seedling into a loose granny knot may produce the same result. Root pruning will also stunt growth. Certain methods of pruning or pollarding will tend to keep trees low in height. Finally, if it is desired to obtain the benefits of a smaller tree without interfering with a normal growth habit, one may prune away the fruiting spurs growing in the top or, as it is commonly called, the crown.



Both these trees are ten years old. The small one is on a dwarfing rootstock and the large one is a standard tree. The dwarf fruited three years earlier than the standard.



The well known dwarfing rootstock originated in western Europe. There they are employed with great success. Trees upon such roots may be much more closely spaced than the big standard trees. In Belgium, trees upon Malling IX, an English rootstock, are often planted eight feet between rows and six feet between trees. These dwarfs may ultimately attain a height of eight feet. They bear within two or three years following planting, and often produce more fruit per acre than standard trees. These large yields have caught the eyes of growers in the United States, who are beginning to plant Malling IX and Clark Dwarf. They plant trees on these rootstocks 8 to 12 feet apart on the square, or in rectangles 10 feet by 15 feet.

It is well to know that the dwarfs have certain disadvantages. They are susceptible to root rot caused by 'wet feet'. They are short lived, the fruiting variety often forms a weak union with the rootstock variety, and the rootstock itself is not very hardy. Importation alone can sometimes modify the characteristics of the European rootstocks. The frequently used English rootstocks are not well adapted to the Canadian climate. They can only be successfully grown in a few warmer areas; and even in these favoured places they perform best on light, warm soils and when protected by a mulch spread over the roots. However, it must be admitted that these stocks have not been given a complete trial in all parts of Canada. Perhaps some special method of culture will be developed which will eventually permit their use on a commercial scale. In this connection it may be pointed out that there is less root injury to all apple trees when a sod—mulch system of culture is employed.

In addition to Malling IX, the East Malling Station has originated other rootstocks. Some are semi-dwarfing. Unfortunately, they do not always effect our fruiting varieties as they do those of the United Kingdom. Recently, East Malling has developed a new series of rootstocks. One of these is said to produce a tree which is no higher than four or five feet. Its hardiness rating is completely unknown. Macdonald College has received a few of these trees for trial, but they are in very limited supply, and no more are likely to be released for trial for a long time.

At Macdonald College, attempts are being made to develop dwarf apple trees by grafting commercial varieties upon various combinations of different rootstock and intermediate (stem) varieties. These trees, comprised of three varieties each, are built by a method known as **top-working**. The project is a long term one and the full results of these experiments will not be known for many years.

Perhaps there will not be a truly satisfactory dwarfing rootstock for Canadian varieties and conditions until one is developed in this country. The Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is carrying out work with this aim in mind.

It has been found that inserting a short length of dwarfing stock in the stem of a fruiting variety will inhibit its growth. This is accomplished by means of a double or splice graft, and the method may have promise. The dwarfing stocks used so far, however, are susceptible to frost damage.

Root pruning and the knotting of seedlings are not practical methods of producing small trees. The inhibition of growth by means of bark inversion, however, is a method which may ultimately be developed into a practical technique. This method has been investigated by Karl Sax of Bussey Institution, Harvard University. The inversion or turning upside down of a small ring of stem bark, about an inch high, has the effect of girdling. The downward flow of food to the root is checked, and the partial starvation of the root results in a stunting of the whole tree. A perfect technique has not been worked out, but, it is considered that the inversion is best made after the middle of June, that the ring or rings induce the most satisfactory effects when they are not complete circles, and that the further growth of a tree can be checked after it has attained a desired size. Further work remains to be done. Therefore, no comprehensive recommendations have yet been made.

In Tasmania apple trees are spur—pruned with hand shears so that they crop close to the ground. This procedure does not eliminate the large tree, but it does place the apples where the picker wants them. The method is successful, but high labour costs prohibit its use in Canada.

A better way to treat the big standard tree is to lower its top by careful pruning. The effect is somewhat like an arboreal crew cut. Annual cutting can maintain the desired height. Recent evidence shows that this kind of training does not decrease yields; however, it is advisable to lower the top over a period of several years so that the balance between root and shoot is not too greatly disturbed. The cuts should always be made to buds or outward growing twigs and small branches. The larger wounds should be kept covered with braco until they heal. One way of lowering tree tops has been carefully described by C. L. Calahan in the December, 1953 issue of the *American Fruit Grower*.

It is simpler, of course, to start making the annual crew cut when the tree is young. Select a desirable height and see that the tree keeps to it. The resulting shape is not likely to be entirely a vase or a modified leader. As our orchardists are used to training trees to these two shapes, a special technique may have to be worked out for the crew cut before it can be recommended for general use. Some interesting and valuable attempts to do this were carried out in the Macdonald College orchard some years ago which may be seen in Block eleven of the tree fruit plantings. It will be seen that this method offers promise.



# FLOWER BORDERS

by Patricia Harney



Annuals, biennials and perennials are herbaceous plants; they die down to the ground at the conclusion of their flowering season. Flower borders that are particularly pleasing usually have a structural background, such as a hedge, shrub border or a well-constructed fence. This completely rules out the flower bed in the middle of the lawn or along paths and walks. Such groupings of flowers do not make a good showing and add greatly to the cost and labor of maintenance. Herbaceous perennials are the backbone of the flower garden, but they should be supplemented with annuals, biennials and spring-flowering bulbs to give as much bloom as possible throughout the season.

An annual is a plant that completes its life-cycle in one growing season. The seed is sown in the spring, germinates and develops vegetative growth which eventually flowers, produces seed and dies. The bloom on annuals should be removed as soon as it begins to fade, preventing the plant from going to seed and encouraging it to bloom until it is killed by frost. Annuals are used to provide bloom in the flower border during mid-summer when perennials are at their poorest; in the cutting garden to provide flowers for the house; in window boxes; as potted plants, both inside and out; but are seldom used alone in a garden except temporarily to be replaced by a proper perennial border.

Biennials have a two-year life cycle. They are often seeded in July or August and produce vegetative growth that first summer after which they die down to the ground in the fall. The next spring they grow up again, flower, produce seed and die. Many biennials, such as pansy, hollyhock and Sweet William seed themselves and are erroneously considered perennial.

Perennials come up from the same root system year after year. In some instances the plants will continue growing in this manner for many years before they have to be lifted and divided, but most require dividing every four or five years. Peonies and bleeding-heart will grow in the same location for many years and prefer not to be disturbed, but chrysanthemums spread very rapidly and should be lifted every spring, divided and set out again.

Because herbaceous perennials remain in the garden for several years the soil must be well prepared. It should be a fertile, well-drained loam into which large amounts of organic matter, such as well-rotted barnyard manure or compost, have been incorporated. After the soil has been prepared the garden may be planted. Plant in groups or drifts to avoid a spotty effect and repeat two or more drifts throughout the border to provide unity.

The garden should be designed on paper before the plants are set out. The tallest plants, naturally, go along the back of the border, but be careful to accentuate the skyline with tall spiky plants like delphinium at intervals among large rounded plants, such as peony and bleeding-heart. Do not plant clashing colors next to one another; separate them with white flowers. Most flowers are sun-loving and usually a border should be placed in a section of the garden area that has a southern exposure.

In the spring the winter mulch should be removed gradually so that the plants will not be injured by being exposed suddenly to the hot sun. Freezing and thawing during the winter will have caused heaving of many of the herbaceous perennials and these should be pressed back into the soil as soon as the mulch is removed. The border should be thoroughly cleaned, removing any dead leaves and stalks that may have escaped the fall clean-up and the beds should be edged with a sharp spade. Note which plants require dividing; this is done in the early spring or in the fall depending on the flowering time of the individual plants. As soon as the soil is warm and dry enough the border will require cultivating at ten day intervals throughout the summer to keep down weeds. Either a 4-12-4 or 4-8-4 commercial fertilizer should be applied after the plants start into active growth and again in the early summer. Sprinkle the fertilizer on the soil at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet, being careful not to get any on the foliage, and water it into the ground. Remove faded bloom to prevent seed formation and to keep the border as neat as possible. This may often induce a second period of bloom later on in the summer, particularly on delphinium. If the normal

(Please turn to page 23)



# L'U.C.C.

**“W**E HAVE NEED of a professional association to protect us.” Back in October, 1924, the Hon. Laurent Barré made this statement before a meeting of farmers in Quebec city. That same day Mr. Barré, now Quebec Minister of Agriculture, presented to the meeting proposals for a farm organization—proposals which laid the foundation for the Union Catholique des Cultivateurs.

Since 1924 the U.C.C. has grown until it now represents over 43,000 French-speaking Roman Catholic farmers in the Province of Quebec. Its influence on Quebec's agriculture has been tremendous. In the year 1949, the Sherbrooke Federation of the U.C.C. calculated that it had saved \$1,563,871.40 for 10,000 members of that area. More important, through it the farmer has achieved new respect in the eyes of his city cousin. His thinking is no longer confined to the arpents of land on which he lives, but to provincial, national, and international matters.

What is the Union Catholique des Cultivateurs (Union of Catholic Farmers)? It is a professional association, organized under Quebec's Professional Syndicates Act just as a carpenters, plumbers or bricklayers' union.

To realize the significance of the word “Catholic” in the name, it is necessary to understand the culture, the way of life, that the first settlers of Quebec have established. The Roman Catholic religion is a vital part of that culture. Each parish has its own church and curé. It is a community—the center of the social and economic interests and activity of the parishioners.

The Roman Catholic faith emphasizes the importance of the individual and family. Anything affecting these concerns the church. The U.C.C. adheres to the doctrine and teachings of the Roman Catholic church in any matters affecting the spiritual or social welfare of either of these. Although each syndicate, federation, and the confederation has its chaplain, the interest of the clergy is limited to the social aspects of the U.C.C. program. They are not concerned with hog grading regulations, woodcutters wage agreements or such policies.

As a professional organization, the U.C.C. is controlled by its members and remains neutral toward politics. Proof of political neutrality was supplied when members obliged the association to discontinue publishing information in the “Bulletin des Agriculteurs”, a paper which had actively supported the United Farmers in their political campaign about 1920. The result was that the U.C.C. began publishing its own paper.

The U.C.C. is made up of three parts—syndicates, federations, and a confederation. The syndicate is the smallest unit. Based on the parish, each syndicate must have a least 20 members to become legally recognized under the Professional Syndicates Act. All local problems are handled by the syndicates. Today more than 43,000

members belong to about 800 parish clubs or syndicates.

Federations, formed by an affiliation of syndicates, usually follow the boundaries of a diocese. This may vary, depending on the types of farming, number of syndicates, and geographical conditions, so that one federation may cover more or less than a diocese. Each federation now has its own office with a secretary and stenographer.

All the federations, at present 21 in number, are joined together to form a confederation. Covering the province, the confederation is formed directly by the federations, and indirectly by the syndicates. These units, with their offices, form the Union Catholique des Cultivateurs—L'U.C.C. for short.

Up to 1947 the local clubs and diocesan unions had no official status. They were not syndicates or federations. However, since being incorporated under the Professional Syndicates Act in 1947, the syndicates and federations are legally recognized bodies.

## Administrative Control

Control of the U.C.C. is in the hands of the members. Each syndicate has its elected president and a secretary. Once a year every federation holds a meeting which delegates and members of the syndicates attend. They elect an administrative council of nine who choose from among themselves a federation president and vice-president.

A general meeting is held in October of every year to elect a president and two vice-presidents for the provincial council or *conseil général*. At this meeting each federation has one vote for every 200 members it represents and all the federation presidents are official delegates. After the elections, the *conseil général* consists of the three elected officers, the presidents of the federations, and three persons designated by the Co-operative Fédérée. The *conseil général* decides what topics the study courses will follow the next year and they may set up special committees—dairy, forestry, market garden, and an executive committee to care for administrative problems.

During the early years members paid 50¢ to join the U.C.C. and this was divided between the syndicates, federations, and confederation. In the dark 30's Mr. Alderic Lalonde, the president who succeeded the Hon. Laurent Barré, was asked by a farmer to give account of all the 30¢ contributions that went to the central office. At the time the U.C.C. was struggling to keep body and soul together, provide services and increase its membership. Today the fee has risen to \$5.00.

The nerve centre of the U.C.C. is the general secretariat. It co-ordinates the work of the various departments and does the routine secretarial duties. Besides these responsibilities it concerns itself with education and passing on information to members, radio programs, and the work



of the various special committees. Mr. L.-P. Poulin, the present secretary, spent a number of years as assistant secretary where his main duty was to work with the dairy committee.

A "Cours à Domicile", a public course for members, is conducted by the secretariat. Begun in 1929-30, the course is meant for the whole family. *La Terre de Chez Nous* publishes the course and it is used by study groups which exist in every parish. Groups are conducted very informally. The course commences in November and continues to April. Diplomas are awarded to those who successfully complete the required exams.

### Extending the Work

Strengthening the organization and recruiting new members is left to the "Service de la Propagande", a department of the U.C.C. set up to fill these needs. The department has a director who assigns a propagandist to each district federation. It is their duty to talk to the farmers, attend local meetings, co-ordinate regional activities and report all news to the provincial office and the *conseil général*.

In their work the propagandists have to participate in education projects of various kinds. Each parish has a "Journée d'Etude" when all the syndicate members go to the parish hall for a day to study their special problems and ask questions. Also, at least once a year each federation holds a course for members who are leaders in their own communities. Such courses may last from four days to two weeks and involve from 30 to 40 people. In 1951 the U.C.C. established a course at the agricultural school in Sherbrooke where students could study co-operatives, rural economy, administration, social problems, etc. U.C.C. receives help toward the support of this project from the Co-opérative Fédérée, the Caisses Populaires Desjardins and the Provincial Government.

To help them in their work, the propagandists meet twice a year, to talk over their problems, lay plans, and study methods to be used in their jobs. Each is provided with a film projector and is able to make use of a small film library.

Publications and printing come under another department—the publications department. "La Terre de Chez Nous", the weekly paper of the U.C.C., is its responsibility. The paper now has a circulation of over 60,000 copies and is an important means of passing information to members and of holding their interest. Nearly all members pay the \$2.00 subscription per year when they join the Union, and the paper, instead of costing money, has become a revenue producer.

Besides the "Terre de Chez Nous", the publications department translates and prints English pamphlets which are of use to members. They keep a small library for farmers and the material is made available through branch libraries established by syndicates and federations.

Recently a research office has been established. The researcher must summarize all the material that comes to him from across the province. He gathers information on crops, the number of members, price trends etc. Although this department is quite new, it has become very important.

Because unscrupulous insurance salesmen were dealing unfairly with farmers, the U.C.C. organized an assurance service. Today they have co-operative insurance associations which write policies for life, fire, theft, or auto insurance. These associations have grown so large that they are now able to help finance co-operatives. Thus the farmer's dollar is serving two purposes.

Recognizing the plight of the woodsmen in 1934, the U.C.C. organized a forestry service. The transient nature of the lumberjack population made it necessary to set up a special department for them which could deal specifically with their problems. Quebec city was chosen as the site of this new office and they now have their own building there. It has grown to include a hotel which provides accommodation for woodsmen passing through on their way to work, a store for supplies, and an employment bureau. Special educational facilities are available to the woodcutters and their association is allotted a page in the "Terre de Chez Nous". The U.C.C. takes an interest in wage agreements with companies and is now encouraging woodcutters co-operatives which contract to cut lumber. Such a program eliminates the middleman or contractor, leaving any profit over wages to be divided among the workers.

In 1944 rural women formed the "Union Catholique des Fermières". With the support of the U.C.C. the U.C.F. has grown till it now represents over 50,000 women. Pledged to work with the U.C.C. for moral, religious, social and economic improvement, the Union Catholique des Fermières is organized much the same as the U.C.C. with its head office in Montreal. Like the woodsmen, they have a section in the "Terre".

No matter what type of farming he does, any farmer may join the U.C.C. Therefore it represents the interests of all the farmers. As such it is the voice of all farmers and it therefore represents only those views which are judged to be in the best interests of all.

Since specialized syndicates or commodity groups sometimes find it to their advantage to adopt a policy which will not be in the interests of the majority, a council or committee has been set up which deals with the requests of all commodity groups. This committee is composed of members of the specialized syndicates and the U.C.C. executive and it determines what is the best course to adopt on a matter. Once the pros and cons have been weighed and the policy decided, the U.C.C. speaks for the specialized producers. Such a system presents a strong, united front and insures a more consistent agricultural policy.



The U.C.C. is a member body of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and represents more than a tenth of its members. Both the present president, Mr. J.-B. Lemoine and the past-president of the U.C.C., Mr. Abel Marion, have played active parts in the work of the C.F.A. They have added their strength to that of the rest of Canada's farmers to make the agricultural profession respected and to increase its influence.

In its 32 years the Union Catholique des Cultivateurs has proven the truth of the Hon. Laurent Barré's statement, "We have need of a professional association to protect us." Its accomplishments are too numerous to list and its benefits cannot be calculated in cold dollars and cents. The most direct proof of its value is demonstrated by the faith of farmers who continue to make it bigger and stronger than ever. It was, and is, needed.

## Feeding the Hungry Soils

If you go to the refrigerator and take out some food and do the same the next day and the next, your "frig" will soon be empty—if you don't replenish it with more food.

It's much the same with soil. Every crop harvested and removed from the land takes with it a large quantity of plant food drawn from the soil. Continue draining off this food year after year without replacing it and soon there'll be little left for plants to feed on. Results—poor crops, inferior quality and, of course, greatly reduced profits.

Since nitrogen, phosphate and potash are the three main nutrients required by growing plants, let's see how much of these foods a few of the common crops gobble up in a single season:

| Crop                | Yield       | Pounds of<br>Plant Food Removed |         |        |
|---------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------|--------|
|                     |             | Nitrog.                         | Phosph. | Potash |
| Barley (grain)      | 60 bushels  | 53                              | 23      | 15     |
| Corn (grain)        | 100 bushels | 78                              | 36      | 26     |
| Oats (grain)        | 75 bushels  | 53                              | 23      | 15     |
| Soy beans (beans)   | 40 bushels  | 176                             | 56      | 64     |
| Sugar beets (roots) | 20 tons     | 73                              | 29      | 71     |
| Tobacco             | 2000 pounds | 73                              | 13      | 106    |
| Wheat (grain)       | 40 bushels  | 47                              | 21      | 12     |

From the foregoing figures, it is obvious the different crops consume plant nutrients at varying rates so that their replenishment must be guided by a thorough soil test. Generally, more plant food must be added than indicated as some, especially phosphate, may become "fixed" in the soil and therefore not readily available to growing plants. Considerable losses are also due to washing, leaching and other causes.

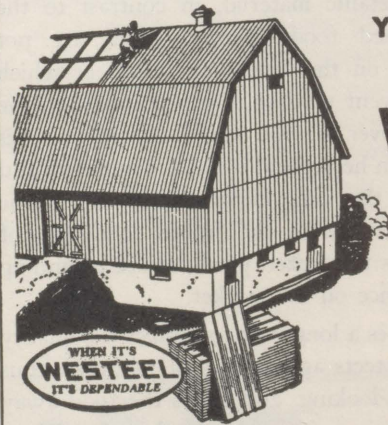
Successful farmers who conduct their farming as a business, realize the importance of replacing plant foods by fertilization of their soils and making the best use of advice offered by their local agricultural representatives and other authorities on scientific farming. They know that high yields mean greater profits because the cost of producing each unit becomes less as per-acre yields increase.

## Now Its Permanent Ice!

If you pack lunches for school children or other members of the family who eat away from home, or if you are a picnic-goer, you'll be interested in one of these apparently magic bags. It's made of a tough vinyl plastic (or you can get it in a tin can) filled with what feels like stiff gelatin. Freeze it hard and it will stay frozen for quite some time; ideal for putting on top of the lunch in the box, or putting beside the baby's bottle to keep it cold if you're visiting for the afternoon.

There are bigger sizes than the one illustrated, which is about five inches long. These bags and cans can be used over and over again and this "re-usable ice" will not leak or lose its effectiveness should the container become punctured accidentally.

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# Wrap It — Freeze It — Enjoy It

**Proper packaging is important in storing frozen foods. Using the proper materials and a little care, the best home-grown foods can be enjoyed every day of the year.**

One of the main advantages of preserving food by freezing it is that by this method all the original quality of the food may be kept intact, since no changes take place in the tissues of food that is kept at a constant low temperature.

These changes may be of a chemical nature, which will result in loss of colour, the development of off-flavour, or the destruction of vitamins. (Blanching vegetables prevents these chemical changes). Then there are physical changes, such as loss of water which leads to the so-called "freezer burns", which may be a major cause of poor quality. The affected areas may be changed to such an extent that they will not come back to normal in cooking with the result that the food becomes unpleasant to eat.

Ever since the start of the frozen food industry, much research has been carried out to find some kind of packaging material that will prevent food from drying out during freezing storage. Frozen foods are handled and stored in a very special way, and something entirely new in packaging was needed. The first thought was to use paperboard or some other non-metallic material, in contrast to the metal used for canned foods. Frozen foods are not sterilized, but depend on the low temperature at which they are stored to prevent spoiling. Canned foods, on the other hand, are safe over a wide range of temperatures since they are packed in hermetically sealed containers and sterilized by heat in the can. However, as the public becomes better informed about the frozen food way of living, metal containers for frozen products are beginning to make their appearance on the market.

Proper packaging goes a long way to protect the quality of frozen foods. It protects against loss of moisture, thus keeping the food fresh-looking, and keeps the food away from the air, which can oxidize the food and produce rancidity and changes in flavour and odour.

It is most important to keep water-vapour within the package, and this can be done by using suitable materials for the container, and by proper sealing. Incidentally, the way the package is sealed or closed may be just as important as the material used for the package. Poorly sealed packages permit leaking of the contents before and after freezing, and let water-vapour and flavour evaporate during storage. And when filling the package, it is important to fill it so that as little air as possible remains in it, to prevent oxidation.



**The way food is wrapped for freezing has a lot to do with the way it will keep.**

Preparing a food for freezing involves removing the natural covering, be it peel, shell, or skin, and packaging is an attempt to replace or improve on this natural covering. There are many materials for packing and wrapping frozen foods. Waxed rigid cups or cartons are very popular for fruits and vegetables. Then there are many types of wrapping materials which can be obtained either in sheets or bags. Packages made using this type of wrapping are usually closed by dead fold, by twisting and tying the ends, or sealed by heat. Aluminum foil of the proper thickness, heat-sealing cellophane, polyethylene and other plastics of a vinyl base such as Saran and Visten, or a rubber base such as Pliofilm and Cry-o-vac, are all examples of this type of material. They are generally used for odd-shaped food such as fowl, meat or fish, for non-liquid fruits and vegetables, and for most bakery products. Ordinary household aluminum foil is not suitable for wrapping food for frozen storage because it is too thin, and the transparent bags with holes in them in which fresh vegetables come from the store, and ordinary waxed paper, are not recommended because they are not air-tight.

Metal is an excellent container for frozen foods because it has all the necessary qualities. But it must be remembered that frozen foods stored in metal containers will spoil if left too long at room temperature in the can. Glass jars can be used, though they are not recommended usually, but food in glass jars must be packed with at least a half-inch of head space. Glass jars break easily, and if they are used each jar should be wrapped to prevent the possibility of bits of broken glass getting into other packages in the freezer. Round containers are wasteful of storage space.



## City Thinking On Farming

As a general rule, the people who live in our cities have little or no interest in the problems of farming and farm life. They understand little about the farming business, and because of that, and because of what some leaders of city thinking say, are inclined to have entirely wrong conceptions of farm conditions economically and otherwise, and find it easy to beef about high food prices, forgetting, or not even realizing that there is a wide difference between what the farmer generally receives for his product and what the city consumer finally has to pay for it. Many city people believe that farmers are eternal complainers, that they are really well to do, and are pampered by governments who cater to farm voters.

No matter what city people and leaders of city thinking might believe about farming and farm policies, there does come a time when the minds of city people are perforce directed to do some thinking about the state of the nation's agriculture. That is the period of time when farm prices are on the decline, as they have been for the past three or four years, when farm markets dwindle, and farmers are struggling with the problem of falling income and rising costs, while the rest of the national economy goes merrily on its prosperous way.

Such a time is the present, and to judge by what some newspapers and magazines in both the U.S. and Canada, and some leaders of thought, are saying, there is developing a real concern over the position of the farming business. They find that farmers have been reducing their buying of goods, that business closely associated with farming is slackening off.

Some time ago, the Des Moines Register, a very well-known daily in the heart of one of the big farm states, said "One thing that the drop in farm income has accomplished—it has stirred up the brain cells of a lot of city folk to thinking about farm problems." And the Saturday Evening Post, widely read national magazine, devoted an

entire article recently under the heading "Why we can't stay on the farm."

Some Canadian papers and magazines are leading the way in taking note of the farm situation, and in discussing farm problems. Much comment appeared following the annual convention of the CFA at Hamilton in January, newspapers accepting in serious tone what was expressed at the convention respecting the farm economic position. The Hamilton Spectator, in a welcoming editorial for the convention, under the heading "Farms are the Keystone," said, among other things that "this industrial hub will listen carefully to what they have to say, knowing of what immense importance their deliberations are to the country." The Spectator further said "There is a sturdiness and independence in farm life, which is chiefly the source of leadership in any field you like to name."

And surprisingly enough, Gordon Sinclair, well-known Toronto columnist and commentator comes out of his usual corner in Liberty magazine, fighting for the farmer, "Don't call the Canadian farmer a yokel, hick, or bumpkin. He's the captain of the good earth." In the course of his commentary, Gordon said "The farmer is the one essential man without whom no city dweller can long survive. He gets no paid vacation, no 40-hour week, no pension scheme and no paid time off for illness. No Canadian has more built-in integrity and self-respect than the farmer, but he gets the worst of the deal of any citizen in this rich land."

All of this is some evidence that city brains are taking a serious look at the farm economy of to-day. Let's hope this also leads to a far better understanding of farm problems and farm policies which have been subjected by some city leaders to such strenuous criticism. But that calls for a special kind of public relations program, which should be the subject of much more discussion than has been given to date.

Colin Groff in the  
C. F. A. Bulletin.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

*Activities, Plans and Policies of the Quebec  
Department of Agriculture*

### Pomologists Meet In Montreal

Montreal's beautiful Botanical Gardens formed the setting for the summer meeting of the Quebec Pomological Society on July 25th; in an urban rather than a country setting for a change, a goodly number of growers discussed problems of getting a fair price for their crop this year.

Estimating the probable size of Quebec's 1956 crop will not be an easy task, explained J. Ed. Duchesne, because growers have not seen fit to report their individual estimates to the central office of the Society. However, basing figures on personal inspection and what reports are available, it is thought that the crop may possibly result in about 2½ million bushels of saleable apples, taking out those that will go to juice and other products. Estimates of crops all across Canada and in the United States show that the 1956 crop will be considerably smaller than last year. The American crop, for example, will likely be down some 20 million bushels, and a drop of something in the vicinity of 1 million bushels is looked for in each of the Canadian provinces except New Brunswick whose crop will likely be around 300,000 as compared with 410,000 in 1955.

The advertising campaign which growers in Quebec have pinned their faith to for a good number of years has finally come to an end due to lack of support except from the co-operatives. Private growers have not seen fit to support the programme with the 1 cent a bushel levy that

the Society had asked and the co-operatives, which have been shouldering the burden almost single handed, have decided they have had enough.

And right now publicity for the apple crop is needed more than ever before. Styles in selling apples have changed; nowadays, a few buyers take most of the crop—representatives of large chains, for example. In some parts of the provinces apples can be brought in from outside more cheaply than they can be delivered from the eastern area around Montreal, and promotion for other kinds of fruit is giving stiff competition to sales of apples.

Some of the large apple co-operatives in the province have decided to go ahead with a promotion campaign for their own benefit, though they will be glad to have individual growers join with them provided they pay their share of the costs. The idea is to establish a trade mark, or name, for their apples which, they hope, will become a household word with reference to apples just as the name Sunkist is known to mean good oranges. Only apples handled by members of the group will be allowed to be marketed under this brand name, and of those only the best will be put on the market so designated. Details of what the name will be, how the scheme will be administered, etc. have yet to be worked out, but one thing they are agreed on, and that is that the regulations they impose will be strict, to maintain quality at the highest possible level, and will be rigorously applied.

Another group of co-operatives, including Chateauguay, Frelighsburg, Farnham and Ile d'Orleans, have joined together in a marketing scheme under the name of the United Apple Growers. Their products will be marketed under a distinctive name through the medium of the Cooperative Federee. Here again other co-operatives and independent growers are invited to take part.

There is little business to be transacted at the summer meeting. Arriving just before lunch, the members listened to a discussion of apple cider, and came to the usual conclusion, that it will be a happy day for the growers when the sale of cider is legalized in Quebec. Cider expert Arengo Jones described how it is made and its quality controlled.

The afternoon sessions were attended almost entirely by men. The ladies in the party (and there were a good number of them) were taken on a tour of the Botanical Gardens, by the Assistant Director, Stephen Vincent, who showed them over the ornamental plantings, the school gardens, the plots of annuals and perennials and so forth.



Members of the Pomological Society in front of the Main Building of the Montreal Botanical Gardens just before the afternoon session got underway. The ladies of the party are just leaving for a conducted tour of the Gardens.



# Ayrshire Summer Field Day

Attendance at the summer picnic of the Quebec Ayrshire Breeders' Association, estimated at about 200, was disappointing to the organizers, who had expected a considerably larger crowd. However, one consoling fact was that the members who did show up at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere formed a fairly good cross-section of the province, with good-sized groups present from the Missisquoi, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec and the Lower St. Lawrence and the Chicoutimi areas.

Those who attended found a good programme prepared for them. They went on a tour of the College farm and of the Experimental Station, saw the livestock, and did all those things that farmers do at field days.

The group assembled at the Agricultural College and, to start the serious work of the day, watched a demonstration by Adrien Martin on dairy cattle type, and then took part in a judging contest on classes of heifers and of adult cows. Following a tour of the newly-completed agricultural engineering building of the College, the group moved on to the Experimental Station where Director Rosario Pelletier and his colleagues welcomed them. Here more demonstrations were staged, and another judging contest, on young bulls from the Station herd, was held. An item here which created a lot of interest was the "mobile milking parlour"—a unit comprising milker, with the machinery to make it work, and two milking stalls on a trailer that can be drawn into the field for milking the herd out of doors. The equipment shown at Ste. Anne costs about \$4000, the group was told.

Later, Dr. A. Lavallee dealt with questions of health of animals posed by members of the group, and this was followed by a group discussion on various topics led by J. P. Lemay, of the Station staff, Edmond Rioux, a breeder from St. Arsene, Frs. Dionne of the staff of the Livestock Branch at Quebec, Armand Ouellet and others. Topics discussed included everything from milking records and the cost of R.O.P., bonus payments for bulls, the cost of registering animals, to a discussion of the "Green Pastures" mixtures being offered for sale.

Commenting on the latter point, Mr. Pelletier remarked that if a farmer took the same pains when sowing the much cheaper mixture recommended by the Quebec Seed Board as had to be taken with this new mixture, he would get just as good results without spending so much money.

He also emphasized that R.O.P. costs less in this country than anywhere else in the world, for here the government absorbs a considerable part of the cost of operating the service.

Two new officials of the Ayrshire breed were introduced to the Quebec breeders at the meeting. Raymond Lancot, recently appointed Secretary of the Quebec Association, was on hand to meet the breeders en masse, and Douglas McKechnie, Secretary of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, was on hand to meet the Quebec members of the Association.

Also noted at the meeting were Roland Pigeon of Vercheres (who introduced Mr. McKechnie), Nicholas Kelly, a director of the National Association, Harry Tremblay of the Federal Department of Agriculture and Maurice Halle, representing the Canadian Milk Producers' Federation.

## French Students Visit Quebec

Minister of Agriculture Barre and senior members of the Department were hosts to a visiting group of students of the National School of Agriculture at Toulouse, France, recently. The boys, who are accompanied on their Canadian tour by Baron Andre Revon, Professor of Economics at the School, went immediately to the Capital City after arriving at Dorval Airport.

Although they had all too little time to spend in Quebec, they were taken on a tour of the Isle of Orleans, where they were able to see practically every crop growing that is produced anywhere in Quebec; farming is very diversified there, which makes the island a little Quebec in miniature. They were entertained at a luncheon by the Minister of Colonization, J. D. Begin, and at a farewell dinner by the Minister of Agriculture.

They left to continue their trip, which will take them right out to the West coast, full of admiration for the warm welcome with which their compatriots in Quebec had received them and full of praise for the Province and its people.

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This would have been a good season to try the new kind of mulch for strawberries which growers in California are starting to use to keep their berries from being damaged by mould rot caused by too much rain.

They are using thin sheets of tough polythene plastic which they lay down like carpets over the strawberry rows. The polythene keeps the soil moist and soft and at the same time gives protection from the driving rain. Results in the first try—85% reduction in spoilage.



## Holstein Picnic Breaks Attendance Record

More than 3000 persons assembled last month at Ernest Croteau's "Barilee" farm at Plessisville; a crowd the like of which has never before been seen at a Holstein annual field-day. Leading the Quebec government officials present was Minister of Agriculture Barre, who was accompanied by Hon. Tancrede Labbe, Wilfrid Labbe and Antonio Elie. Harry Tremblay of the Animal Production Branch represented the Federal Government. Pierre Labrecque, Armand Ouellet from the Livestock Branch at Quebec were present, along with a large number of agronomes and other members of the staff of the Department.

An inter-club judging contest for the McLeod Trophy is always a feature of the Holstein picnic, and the winning team this year was from the Montreal-Vaudreuil club, comprising Messrs. St. Pierre, manager of the Raymondale

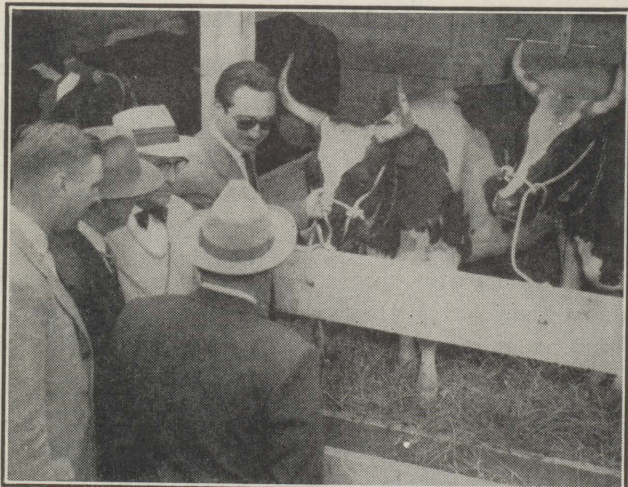
Farm, Maurice Leger and Rosaire Legault, all well known in the livestock world. Each member of the team received, for himself, a magnificent silver plate, a gift of Mr. McLeod, whose interest in the Holstein breed and anything pertaining to it is well known. There were other judging contests as well, and something like 40 cash prizes were awarded.

Type demonstrations, given in both languages, were done by Albert Desrosiers, senior livestock propagandist for the Federal Government. And by Alex Ness, retired Head of the Animal Husbandry Department at MacDonald College, who is carrying on with livestock work by acting as official classifier for the Association. George Clemons, Secretary-Manager of the National Association, was also on hand to bring greetings from the rest of Canada.

## Ayrshires to Venezuela

The first shipment of Ayrshire cattle to go to Venezuela left Montreal a few weeks ago aboard the "Sun-princess" when 42 head of purebreds were shipped to La Guaira by Paul Adam of Beloeil.

Venezuela is making a great effort to reduce her imports of dairy products by building up her own dairy herds. Most of the Venezuelan cattle are of the Creole type, brought in by the Spaniards centuries ago. They have developed a high resistance to heat, drought and insects but are generally poor milk producers. Venezuelan farmers have approached the problem of increasing production in two ways. Some have crossed imported Holstein, Brown Swiss, Jersey and Ayrshire bulls with their Creole cattle; others have replaced the Creole cattle completely with imported breeds. There are now many modern dairy farms in Venezuela which have herds of purebred cattle comparable to the best in North America.



Checking on the comfort of the Ayrshires in their deck stalls are, from left to right, Raymond Lanctot, Secretary of the Quebec Ayrshire Association; Dr. Labelle, Alfred Gagnon, Dr. Ramon Cabot, Vice-consul of Venezuela, and, with his back to the camera, Mr. Adam.

The Venezuelan Government is helping with the improvement programme by passing strict regulations aimed at controlling disease, by encouraging the construction of modern pasteurizing and milk powder plants, by setting up herd selection and improvement plans and by making available low cost loans to farmers who wish to import high quality breeding stock. The farmers themselves seem to be quite willing to pay premium prices for Canadian cattle, knowing their reputation as being quality stock.

## Two New Robertson Associates From Quebec

Two Quebec farmers, Alpherie Beaulieu of Ste. Martine, and George J. Larocque of Stanbridge East, have been named "Robertson Associates" by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. This is a highly coveted honour among seed growers in Canada and, as Paul Methot, chief of the Plant Products Division points out, cannot be attained unless one has produced seed acceptable for certification for at least ten consecutive years.

Mr. Beaulieu grows seed of Banner, Mabel and Beaver oats, and Montcalm and O.A.C. 21 barley. Mr. Larocque's specialty is seed of Detroit Dark Red beets and Round Pod Kidney Wax beans.

## Judging For Agricultural Merit

In preparation for the award of medals for the Agricultural Merit competition to be made this fall, judges have been visiting the ninety farms entered in this year's contest since early in July. This year they are Ernest Bourgeois, the gold medalist in District 2 five years ago, J. A. Paquet, also a gold medal winner, Dr. Maurice St. Pierre of the staff of the Agricultural College of Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere, and Philippe Lambert who doubles as secretary.



## Insects by the Thousands

A recent report from the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa listed 80,000 species of insects in Canada's national insect collection. The report added that new species are being discovered each day.

While many Canadians consider insects as bothersome creatures of interest only to bug collectors, the fact is they pose a great economic problem to the nation. Admittedly, there are many useful insects which should be protected, but there is a vast number which cause incalculable damage to the country's rural economy.

According to current statistics the annual loss in live-stock and field crop production in Canada attributed directly to insects is in the neighborhood of \$312,000,000. This sum is staggering indeed and undoubtedly would have been much greater had it not been for various agricultural chemicals developed over the past few years.

In 1951 in Alberta, for example, 296,000 acres of grasshopper-infested grain land were sprayed by insecticides which saved a crop valued at \$6,000,000. This was done at a cost of \$50,000 and represents a return of 120 to 1 on expenditures. Last year the prairies barley crop was rescued from destruction by a severe outbreak of barley aphids when a blitz-like aerial and ground counter-attack soaked the infested fields with chemical spray.

These are not isolated cases and many more could be cited which suggests that if certain farmers choose to ignore the value of modern pesticides, annual farm losses to pests will continue to be in the millions of dollars.

## The Judging Season Is Here Again



All over the province eager youngsters are judging classes of cattle, hoping to be the ones that will be chosen to represent their 4-H club at the provincial competition at Sherbrooke.

The Montreal area regional contest was held at Macdonald College on July 31st, with some 80 boys and girls from the clubs of Howick, Brome, Lachute, Cowansville,

Ormstown and Huntingdon representing the English language group, and from St. Armand, Vaudreuil, Rigaud, St. Philippe for the French speaking group. They judged their classes in the morning, gave the reasons for their placings in the afternoon and finished the day with a mammoth ball game on the campus.

Using the combined scores of the top members of each team as a yardstick, the clubs placed in the order given above, though the team from Brome came only for the practice and not as official contestants. Rollie Ness with 389 and Wayne McKell with 398 were the top scorers for the Howick team, and Raymond Bernier with 347 and Alfred Benoit with 399 put their St. Armand team out in front. Both these teams will see further action at Sherbrooke at the end of August.

## That Others May Learn

A man who has had the advantage of training at an agricultural school should pass his knowledge on to his neighbours. That is the thought animating the agricultural graduates in Portneuf County, who have recently set up an association known as The Association of Agricultural Graduates of Portneuf County.

Anyone who has graduated from a school of agriculture is eligible to join, provided he lives in Portneuf County. At the organization meeting, sponsored at the Deschambault Farm-School by Agronome Antoine Roy, several graduates who are already operating their own farms immediately signed up for a farm-improvement contest to be organized later in the year, thus setting the tone of the whole scheme. The organization is still in its infancy but it is hoped that it will be legally incorporated before long. Alain Frenette of St. Casimir is the first president and there is a vice-president (Jules Carpentier of Pont Rouge) and a board of seven directors.



Some members of the Quebec Seed Board inspected the tests of field crops growing at Macdonald College last month. Left to right are H. R. Klinck, L. C. Raymond, A. Auger, M. Roy, P. Mathot, E. A. Lods, W. S. Richardson and H. A. Stepler.



## Dear Readers:

The weather still keeps cool and growth of our gardens and field crops is delayed. The timothy made very slow growth and the weeds got an extra chance to crowd in. The late severe frosts seem to have hurt the grasses and encouraged the growth of weeds. Some field are rosy with sorrel and others white and red with daisies and paint brush. This was the year we were going to wage an all-out war on weeds but by the look of things we'll need a reseeding programme as well to establish seed again where it has been frozen out; but first we'll test the soil and fertilize it.

I've heard it said that this country should have been left to the Indians. Perhaps the people who got together (both English and French speaking) over at Compton and planned an afternoon and evening of tours, talks, a picnic, a film showing and discussion on reforestation had the right idea. I'm sure the Indians wouldn't take the country back unless we restore some of the natural resources we have removed by our greed. With better education on reforestation and soil improvement we may restore it so they would show a bit of interest in again claiming it!

Then there are reports on poplar and elm trees dying. The elm disease is very evident; graceful black limbs flung out to the sky without a sign of a leaf.

There always was one thing in this country that was free from disease and that was rhubarb. After the starlings had eaten all the strawberries, and the frost had spoilt the apple blossoms, there was rhubarb we could resort to for canning and storing away needed vitamins for winter use. It's a different story told by gardeners this year. A worm very much like a corn borer in looks and habits is boring its way up the stalks and spoiling it for use. Ours got a dose of insect powder, but the results are still undetermined.

The cedar bough business did not yield more than small wages. A two-day spell of hot weather and a shut-

down at the plant cut the profits. Some cedar yields more oil than other loads, which may be caused by the soil or the rate of growth of the trees. More acreage could be available for pastures in this locality if we can get rid of the cedar brush which grows to a large extent on all wet soils.

While building fences this spring my neighbour and I were laying up cedar rails on the line fence. We estimated that the fence was seventy-five years old, but the top rails were hardly marked by age. Once in a while a post rots off and needs to be sharpened and re-set. There is nothing in the timber line that will outlast old growth cedar. Then there is the attraction they are to tourists. Coming through the New England States where the fields are marked by neatly laid stone walls, the rail fences of Southern Quebec appear picturesque and are often the object of quick shots by camera enthusiasts—especially if there is a mare and colt in the foreground.

This is tourist season in this part of the country. When we see a car go by with skis lashed to the top we just go in and put on another sweater. They have the laugh on us this time as we do not doubt but what it isn't far to good skiing. We could almost have gone skating on the lawn tonight after the hail storm which lashed our farm with stones the size of robin's eggs and melted into a half inch of ice clinging to the grass in a sheet, making it very slippery.

I have found a very efficient way to clean the rubbers of the milking machine. I wonder if you have tried it and what success you have had. I mix a solution of Gillett's lye and water, add a couple of cups of the solution to an old agate kettle with water enough to cover all the rubbers. Put it on the stove and bring it to a boil, add a handful of salt and let it stand a few minutes. Pour off the liquid and let the rubbers soak in clear, cold water, then drain them. Result=look like a new set. Longer life is guaranteed by this method if two sets are kept, one set washed by this

method and stored for a week, then used while the other set is washed and stored.

We have been doing some repairs to the buildings: this seems to be a constant job if things are to be kept in shape. We pulled the old square, hand-made nails from the veranda floor and put in a new seil. It delayed planting the dahlias but I don't expect this cold weather will be any help to their growth. Anyway, I don't expect many blooms. Now we are painting the house. Again we had to mix the colour we wanted, using one gallon of red lead and a quart of black spar varnish to get a brick shade to put on the metal imitation brick siding. Ordinary house paint can now be applied over this base but I think we'll leave it with the one coat for this time. One thing about having so much metal on a house—the lightning is attracted and it blew five bulbs out in the last bad storm. I expect we will have to ground the siding in several places to do away with this annoyance.

My pen pal in Yorkshire, England, writes that the great Yorkshire Show is just over. They are trying to interest the younger generation in showing, leading up to a plan such as we have here in Canada with our Calf Clubs and 4-H work. They have pony classes for the children, hoping it will lead on to more participation from the children. There were stalls showing everything the perfect housewife can make at home, from the fairly ordinary iced cakes, jams and marmalades to the more exotic, such as crystallized fruits, dolls, period costumes and home-made wines. There were 14 different varieties of wine as well as common or garden variety cider, and mead ranging in colour from palest gold to ruby red. There were competitions for craftsmen who demonstrated to the fair-goers their skill at working with wood and iron, as it is done in the country districts.

It will soon be Fair time here—hope to see you then.

Sincerely,

Wally



# FARM FORUM

## News and Views

by Leslie G. Young  
Provincial Secretary

Fees and plans for the coming year were the subject of meetings between the Board of Directors of the Quebec Farm Radio Forum and the Executive of the Quebec Farmers' Association. Both organizations met June 29th at Macdonald College. Twice during the day joint meetings were held on matters of concern to both.

Membership fees will continue the same as last year. Should a family join either one or both the Farm Forum and the Farmers' Association the fee will be \$5.00. If they join both organizations, the \$5.00 will be divided, each one receiving \$2.50. As payment for the use of secretarial services and office equipment, the Quebec Farmer's Association agreed to give the Farm Forum \$1.00 per member.

When making plans for the future, the directors decided to try a three-day study course instead of a Leadership Forum. Participants will be able to live at home for the study and they are not as expensive as Leadership Forums. Because of this, it is hoped more people would be able to take part in them.

The first such course will be held in Papineau, probably August 28, 29 and 30. Day sessions will be held in a different house each day. They will be concerned with program planning, conducting meetings, and the duties of forum secretaries. Night sessions, open to everyone, will be held in the Silver Creek Hall. They will deal with farmers' organizations.

Quebec Farm Radio Forum will continue as representative to the Canadian Federation of Agriculture until the Farmers' Association is strong enough to assume the responsibility. In the meantime, the delegation decided that if Mrs. Anderson was unable to attend the meetings, Keith Greig would go in her place.

On June 28th the Farm Forum and the French farm organizations sponsored a wood lot demonstration day. Although skies were overcast, the participants were able to look at wood lots in which good forestry was being practised and at wood lots that had been slashed. In the evenings French and English films were shown in the Compton Town Hall.

During this past month and the one to come, many forum committees have held or will hold fair booths to raise money. Argenteuil reports that they had a very successful booth at the Lachute Fair.

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## Fertility and Hatchability in the Domestic Fowl

Low fertility and hatchability results in a considerable loss to poultry breeders and hatcherymen since incubated eggs that are infertile and those that fail to hatch have no salvage value. There are many factors affecting fertility and hatchability and many of them are under control of the poultry breeder.

A. P. Piloski, poultryman at the Canada Department of Agriculture Indian Head Experimental Farm, Saskatchewan, states that the age of chickens seems to have some effect on hatchability. There is a slight decrease in hatchability in the second year and a more pronounced difference in succeeding years. Males do not seem to be affected to the same extent by age and males exhibiting good vigor may be used for several years. Frozen combs will make a male inactive for several weeks so that dubbing is a good practice wherever there is danger of the comb freezing. Dubbing however, should be done early in the fall when the weather is still mild.

Rations that hens receive prior to and during the breeding season have a great effect on hatchability. A hatching ration should be fed at least a month prior to the time that eggs are to be collected for hatching. It is not desirable to change rations during the breeding season as this may result in lower production at a time when all eggs are required for hatching.

Hatching eggs should be set as soon after laying as possible, as the time that these eggs can be held is relatively short depending on the temperature at which they are stored. The optimum range of temperatures is between 45 degrees and 60 degrees F. At these temperatures eggs can be held a week without hatchability being affected significantly. Up to two weeks the decrease in hatchability

is small, but beyond this time, hatchability decreases very rapidly while the hatching time increases. This factor is important in hatcheries where a rigid schedule is maintained.

In order to maintain a high level of fertility it is usual to mate one male to fifteen females. Under a system of pen-mating where several males are used in one pen this ratio should be maintained. Too many males in one pen may actually result in decreased fertility because of excessive fighting. Once a pen has been made up it is undesirable to introduce a strange male into the pen because the fighting which will follow usually results in fewer fertile eggs.

Males should be placed in the breeding pens at least one week before eggs are to be saved to assure a high level of fertility. Under some conditions such as individual breeding, cross-breeding, or where time is an element, it will be found that artificial insemination is of great value. By this method eggs may be saved the second day following insemination. Under normal conditions high levels of fertility can be maintained by natural matings and following good management practices.

## Egg Handling— The Most Costly Producer Operation?

The Institute of American Poultry Industries, in a recent Weekly Letter, draws attention to a time and labour study which shows that 58 per cent of the working time on large commercial egg farms is spent in care and handling of eggs. Even to those reasonably familiar with the commercial production of eggs, this is a startling figure. Involved are the gathering of eggs, cooling, grading, cleaning and packing. All of the above are essential steps in the proper handling of the product. It seems obvious that herein may lie an important opportunity for reduction of

costs of production, says H. S. Guteridge. Chief of the Poultry Division, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. No other chore except feeding laying stock even approaches the time cost of egg handling and, in the survey under consideration, feeding is allotted 16 per cent of the total time.

Time spent in gathering eggs is reduced when laying houses are closer to the square rather than long and narrow, when nests are concentrated in restricted areas of the house such as "egg parlours", and when the grading and packing room are centrally located. Apart from providing grading equipment adequate to handle the flow of eggs produced, little time can be saved in the grading and packing phase of handling. The most time-consuming and unnecessary work, however, is cleaning soiled eggs, and it is not surprising that much money is being spent on egg cleaning equipment. To a large extent, it is a production problem and the best solution lies in keeping the eggs clean in the laying house. A certain amount of soilage is unavoidable but most is due to the wrong type of nest, not keeping nest litter clean, and too infrequent gathering. The "roll away" type of nest is being improved constantly and may well make a significant contribution to the production of clean eggs. When gathering eggs, the replacement of soiled areas in the nest litter should be an essential part of the job.

It does not require much imagination to appreciate what a saving of 15 or 20 per cent in time given to egg handling could mean in ability to carry more birds and enhance profitable production. Perhaps another alternative might be seriously considered, namely, to be strictly a producer and leave everything but the gathering of the eggs and the cleaning of those few requiring such treatment, to a reliable, well equipped egg handler and put the time saved towards carrying a larger population of laying birds.





## THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTES SECTION

*and to matters of interest to them  
Devoted to the activities of the Quebec Institutes*

### "RAISING OUR SIGHTS"

by Glenna Taylor

THE CLOSE LINK between Macdonald College and the Quebec Women's Institutes was emphasized by Dr. R. H. Common, Acting Dean, in his address at the opening session of the Convention, Wednesday evening, June 27th. Stressing the importance of this link he went on to welcome the delegates to this 42nd Convention and wished them a successful meeting.

Mrs. Ellard thanked Dr. Common. The College means much to the Q.W.I., she said, and this warm welcome always assures the members that they have a place there.

The president, Mrs. LeBaron, presided at this session and in her address enlarged on the theme of the Convention, "Raising our Sights". "Today's uneasy world needs all the clear thinking, love and co-operation we can give", she went on to say, "Even the humblest among us has a responsibility in working out its solution". Mrs. LeBaron thanked the College for its co-operation and help, the Provincial Department of Agriculture for its support and all those working to further the work of the W.I. She called attention to the Handicraft Exhibit, "a display of the beautiful things created by W.I. members." In conclusion Mrs. LeBaron urged the delegates to go on in the words of the convention theme and not live on past experiences. "It is only in that way that we can go forward", she said.

A telegram was read from Mme P. C. LeBeau, Secretary Home Economics & Handicrafts Division, Quebec, expressing her regret that she could not attend and wishing the conference every success. Greetings were

extended by Mrs. Reusing, Montreal Council of Women; Mrs. Stepler, Macdonald Women's Union; Miss Kay Clynes, Adult Education Service; Miss Alice Lighthall, Can. Handicrafts Guild; and Mrs. R. Edwards, C.A.C. (Quebec English Branch).

A pleasant interlude was enjoyed when Mrs. H. R. Murray rendered some vocal solos: "I Heard You Go By", "The Enchanted Hours" (in French) and as an encore, "Comin' Through the Rye". She was accompanied by Miss F. E. Campbell.

#### Other Speakers

The following afternoon Mr. Nick Cavell, Ottawa, Colombo Plan Administrator, was the speaker. Mrs. Ellard presided at this session and Mrs. Ossington, Citizenship Convenor, introduced Mr. Cavell. Speaking on the topic, "Asia and the Free World", Mr. Cavell said, "We are engaged in one thing and one thing only—to bring into being a free world." The speaker went on to say there was all too little of the free world left. He said that the 500 million people of China are very poor and are trying to raise their standard of living through Communism. India, with its 400 million people, is also trying to improve the living standards through a democratic process. Mr. Cavell stressed the fact that we cannot obtain a free world without Asia because we are hopelessly outnumbered. "It is up to us to see that Democracy works in India; we have a great responsibility there", he argued, if there is to be a free world the people must be prevented from going over to totalitarianism. Mr. Cavell told of



The 42nd Convention - 1956. The biggest yet.





The Q.W.I. presents a life membership in the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada to the retiring president, Mrs. LeBaron. Mrs. Harvey performs the ceremony.

the work of the UN and some of its agencies, going on to speak in particular of his work in connection with the Colombo Plan, where Canada is helping with some 60 projects in all. An enlightening talk, pointing up vividly our role if we wish to help shape a free world.

Mrs. Berry was present for this afternoon and spoke briefly to the delegates. Mrs. Berry is an Australian Farm Woman, a "grazer" she calls herself, and sketched something of the conditions in her country. The Country Women's Association in Australia is the same as the Institute in Canada. They work hard for betterment of women and children, as well as for self-education. Hundreds of rest rooms have been established, handicrafts taught and other projects similar to ours. She spoke of the growth of international understanding and how we should work for world peace. "The time will come when we shall realize we must live in one world", was her closing remark.

Mrs. Berry's main address came that evening. She is a widely travelled person and spoke of customs and conditions in the many countries she had visited. In her native Australia there are 498 branches and they are chiefly concerned with social welfare. They operate mothers' hostels, educational hostels, administer 200 seaside cottages for family holidays and have a club in every town for country members. Mrs. Berry was most interested in schools for future farm wives, which she found in Scandinavia and in Germany. She feels that schools of this

type have raised the status of the farm wife. In many of the countries she has visited an interpreter has had to be used and several amusing experiences were recounted. Mrs. Berry said the thing she loves most about her work is the fact that she really gets to know how others live. She spoke of the opportunity we have of promoting understanding through the ACWW and concluded by saying, "Let us be alive to our responsibility".

Music for the evening was furnished by the Harwood Singers, who delighted the audience with two groups of songs, one of the folk song type and the other in the more classical tradition. Miss Jean Straight is Director of this W.I. group, and Mrs. Kay Dodd, accompanist.

Following this session everyone was invited to meet Mrs. Berry in the sitting room at Stewart Hall.

### Business Sessions

The first business session was held Thursday morning. Mrs. Harvey presided and welcomed the delegates to this second day of the Convention. Mrs. LeBaron read a message from the National President, Mrs. Adams, wishing a fruitful session and success with all projects. Regret was expressed that Mme. LeBeau could not be present and the delegates asked that a letter be sent to her to this effect, also a get-well card to Mrs. Frank, a former demonstrator.

A summary of the business done at Tuesday's Board Meeting was given and recommendations made there presented to the delegates for action as they saw fit. Duties of Convenors and how to plan programs are to be added to the Procedure Manual now being compiled for use in the branches. These both came from the Leadership Course. Other suggestions made by this Course were that Branch Convenors get together when making up the yearly reports (so as to avoid repetition) and that each branch forward to the office the outline of any program that had been particularly successful.



New officers and convenors are installed. From left to right: Miss C. I. Mackenzie, Convenor of Education; Mrs. E. B. Watson, Convenor of Citizenship; Mrs. H. F. Taylor, Convenor of Publicity; Mrs. Gordon Brown, Convenor of Agriculture; Mrs. George Parsons, Convenor of Home Economics; Mrs. G. E. Cooke, Treasurer; Mrs. J. Ossington, second vice-president; Mrs. H. Ellard, first vice-president; Mrs. G. D. Harvey, president; Mrs. G. E. LeBaron, past president. (Mrs. Wm. Coupland, Convenor of Welfare and Health was absent).



The important change in term of branch officers was approved. Notice of motion to this effect had been given last year and the motion itself presented this year. All were in favour. This means that the term will be the same as in the county, officers are appointed for one year and may be re-elected for two more consecutive years (three years in all.)

A discussion was held on gifts to Ceylon, to be distributed to delegates at that Conference by Mrs. Harvey. It was decided that each branch give five small and appropriate articles, light in weight. These are to be sent to the Q.W.I. office by Oct. 1st, to be packed for shipment. Mrs. Ossington is offering a first and second prize. She mentioned about \$270 had been raised for UNESCO Gift Coupons. This project will be closed Oct. 1st and the coupons will be divided equally between India and Ceylon.

### Reports

Mrs. LeBaron reported on ACWW, mentioning that last year marked the 25th anniversary of the setting up of an independent office in London. New affiliations and follow-up contacts are continually being made and Letter Friends and Exchange Programs are expanding projects.

"Home is the most important human organization in the world", said Mrs. Ellard in her report on FWIC, quoting from a talk given by the Hon. Vincent Massey. The W.I. is celebrating its 60th anniversary next year and a first national convention in Ottawa will mark the occasion. A national office will be set up and a Foundation Fund is being established for this purpose. It has been suggested by Mrs. Adams that every Institute in Canada plan one special function, proceeds to go to this Fund. Be proud of our FWIC urged Mrs. Ellard, and use the Federated News at each meeting—at least a little.

Gleanings from other reports give such items as: One thing needed in Canada, more respect for the teacher, More adult education classes and more scholarships needed. W.I. work with new Canadians is to be commended. Enter the Tweedsmuir Competitions (Village

history, painting, articles for hope chest). It is most important to have rural women in CAC. A brief had been submitted to the Royal Commission on Broadcasting, prepared by Miss Mackenzie and Mrs. Ossington. A class for retarded children was opened in Sherbrooke County, with W.I. members assisting; school fairs, dental clinics, and all the other varied activities connected with Institute work. One new Junior Branch has been organized. This is in Gatineau County and is the South Hull JWI. Fifteen counties had had courses from the Technicians, millinery and gloves the popular crafts. One county had edited a special issue of the local newspaper. Membership remains about the same 2,500, and the total number of active branches stands at 98 senior and five junior.

### Resolutions

The Manitoba W.I. resolution was endorsed. This asked that a stamp bearing the picture of Mrs. Hoodless be issued next year, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the W.I. This has been sent on to the FWIC as requested. Another resolution asked that suitable markers be erected along the highways of this province at scenic spots and points of historic interest. Local Institutes would assist with this project.

All Institutes are urged to see that they have duly qualified members elected to School Boards and Municipal Councils. The usual courtesy resolutions were passed, naming Macdonald College, the Department of Agriculture, Press and Radio, and all those who contributed to the success of the convention.

### Nominations

Elections were held on the last day. The returns are as follows: Officers: Past President, Mrs. G. E. LeBaron; President, Mrs. G. D. Harvey; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. H. Ellard; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. J. Ossington; Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Cooke. Convenors: Agriculture, Mrs. G. Brown; Education, Miss C. I. Mackenzie; Home Economics, Mrs. Geo. Parsons; Citizenship, Mrs. E. B. Watson; Welfare & Health, Mrs. Wm. Coupland; Publicity, Mrs. H. F. Taylor. Mrs. A. E. Abercrombie was appointed Recording Secretary to complete the term left vacant by the resignation of Mrs. R. A. Cameron. Mrs. E. G. Prinn, Dorion, served as secretary pro tem at both Board Meeting and Convention.

### Entertainment

A demonstration on the new textiles and fabrics, their care and use in the home, was given on the first afternoon. This was put on by the Canadian Fabrics Foundation. In his opening remarks the president, Mr. Gauthier, said that draperies were used in bygone days to stop drafts, exclude light from within and without, and to catch dust. Now they should be decorative, still screen light, but airy and light in weight so they could be easily handled and washed. Samples of the new fabrics were displayed, their names explained, and comments made as to washability and durability. An attractive



Mrs. Berry is received by His Worship, Mayor Drapeau in his office, City Hall, Montreal. Looking on while Mrs. Berry signs the Golden Book are Mrs. LeBaron, Mrs. Harvey and Mayor Drapeau.





Delegates from Pontiac County. Miss Pritchard was another but as you have likely guessed she is out in front with her camera.

fashion show of garments made from these fabrics followed with three models illustrating various age groups. Mrs. Harvey presided and background music was furnished by Mrs. Dodd, (whose name has been mentioned earlier as the accompanist for Harwood Singers).

After a sing-song at the close of the demonstration, Miss Kay Clynes, of the McLennan Travelling Libraries outlined its service and those of the express loans. The new Bookmobile was on display during the convention.

Miss Frances Wren, Handicraft Department, also spoke briefly, telling of the classes in that Department of the College.

A banquet was held Thursday evening in honour of Mrs. Berry. About 200 guests and members attended and enjoyed the "Quebec menu". A miniature sugar-bush, correct in every detail, formed the centrepiece at the head table.

A tea was given by Mrs. Dion to the Q.W.I. Board on Tuesday, the day of that meeting. This was at Glenaladale and made a very pleasant break in the round of business. Mrs. Dion was assisted by the Macdonald Women's Union.

No attempt is made here to report on the Board Meeting. All business done there always comes before the delegates at the Convention for action so it would be merely repetition.

### Question Box

Members made good use of this. Time was well spent the last morning of the convention when members of the executive answered the variety of questions dealing with problems of administration. Some of the more pertinent are given here briefly.

1. Every county convenor should work closely with the provincial and branch convenors of her own county—the link between.
2. Q.W.I. Service Fund is used solely for the work of the Q.W.I.
3. County presidents have the right to ask for expenses when encountered in carrying out administrative duties.
4. Secretaries have all privileges, if a paid-up member, may make motions and vote.
5. Books should be closed and *audited* before the Annual meeting.
6. Only an official delegate can make motions, vote, or make nominations from the floor. Visiting delegates may speak in discussions.
7. Hymn of All Nations to be arranged to make the music fit the words better.

### Exhibit

This was very good this year. A wide range was noted in type of article and the workmanship was excellent. Over 250 visitors were admitted, among them Miss Alice Lighthall of the Canadian Handicraft Guild, who commended the quality and variety. It was gratifying to see painting is not forgotten.

### Conclusion

It was an exciting convention. The large attendance, inspiring speakers with a first hand knowledge of those other parts of the world that should be our concern, tended to create a feeling that we could indeed "Raise our Sights", and in the words of the new president, Mrs. Harvey, as she closed the convention Friday noon, "go on to bigger and better things".

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## The Month With The W.I.

Summer and vacations! Many branches do not carry on for the two months of July and August but those who do have the usual full programs. Could this be a wistful note when one report says the rollcall was, "Where would you like to spend your holidays?"

**Argenteuil:** *Lakefield* discussed the question of gifts for Ceylon. Two novelty aprons are making their rounds and final arrangements were made for a Bazaar and Food Sale. *Mille Isles* is also making arrangements for a sale, with a tea; the articles of handicrafts given as response to rollcall to be used for this purpose. Cotton was handed in for the Cancer Society. *Pioneer* discussed a trip to an industrial plant or firm in Montreal. A quiz on flowers was enjoyed and \$15 donated the Service Fund. *Upper Lachute-East End* welcomed one new member. Plans were made for a picnic. The branch is catering for a wedding.

**Bonaventure:** *Black Cape* planned an "Impromptu Concert". Antiques brought to the meeting were displayed. *Grand Cascapedia* planned a dance, the proceeds to be used for school prizes. A proposal to sponsor a Canada Packers' Cooking School was discussed and a committee formed to work on this undertaking. *Marcil* distributed copies of the "Bonaventure Echo" to members for sale. A report was brought in on a meeting of the Agricultural Society (in connection with the fair) and Miss Bisson displayed the stuffed toys made at the Leadership Course, and distributed patterns. Mrs. Vautier, Convenor of Education presented prizes for progress in both the Protestant and Catholic Schools. *Matapedia* is knitting a bed spread, a branch project. Another display of stuffed toys here, by Mrs. Bujold who had attended the Course, and gave a full report. Plans are being made for the school fair and a hotplate was donated to the school. *Port Daniel* donated progress prizes in the Protestant and Catholic schools. Copies of the "Bonaventure Echo" were distributed and one sent to the English link, Sway W.I. *Restigouche* discussed plans for a dance. A reading, "Agriculture Merit of 1956" was given by Mrs. Gregoire, convenor of Agriculture, and the Publicity



Marcil W.I. Somebody gets "the cake".

convenor, Mrs. Nicol, told how the W.I. at Valcartier carries on its work.

**Brome:** *Abercorn* welcomed two new members. The "Dresden Plate" quilt has been completed and sold, a branch project. *Austin* finished an afghan and also received donations for the bazaar. *Knowlton's Landing* heard a talk on Citizenship. *South Bolton* held a hot dish dinner. A discussion was held on furnishings for the club room and an electric teakettle and \$7 have been received to help with this undertaking. The branch is working on an entry in the Tweedsmuir Competition. *Sutton* had a successful Visitors' Night and sold aprons to raise funds.

**Chat-Huntingdon:** *Aubrey-Riverfield* has taken out a membership in the UN Association in Canada. The Colombo Plan was explained and the Civil Defence plan of the local hospital. An auction sale of Home cooking was the money-raiser. *Dundee* heard a talk on geranium cutting and a thorough review of the talks given by Mrs. Berry at the Convention. Demonstrations were padding a chair made from a barrel, barbecue table from old treadle sewing machine, and remodelling a lamp shade. An anniversary tea and card party is being planned. *Hemmingford* heard a talk on "Early Beginnings of Hemmingford and Surrounding Areas", by Rev. Canon Dawson. A fashion parade of clothing and accessories of pioneer days was modelled by the members. Two of the charter members of 33 years ago were present: Mrs. A. A. Clayland (in a wheel chair) who held office of County Convenor of Agriculture for 15 years, and Mrs. Rutherford. They are both life members. *Howick* had a demonstration on making summer desserts and rhubarb conserve. *Huntingdon* heard a talk on Immigration by Mr. McFaul. Two films were shown, "Newcomers to Canada", patriotic songs were sung, and the poem, "Canadian Born" was read.

**Compton:** *Brookbury* discussed antiques for the Cookshire Fair and donated \$5 to the Dental Clinic. *Bury* exchanged programs with Holland and donated \$10 to the Sherbrooke Hospital. *Canterbury* discussed the "Hope Chest" (Tweedsmuir Competition) and welcomed three new members. Linen was donated to the Cancer Society and \$10 donated to the Bown Cemetery Fund. *Cookshire* heard a talk on Citizenship by Rev. Canon Dunn. A member visiting in England plans to visit the French Ham W.I., with whom this branch corresponds. A rummage sale was held, \$10 donated to the Sherbrooke Hospital and squares are being made for the W.V.S. *East Angus* had a successful paper drive and donated \$5 to the Institute for the Blind. *Sawyerville* held a handicraft exhibit which included paintings by a woman over 88 years old and a crocheted cushion by another over 90. Cotton was given the Cancer Society and \$10 sent the Sherbrooke Hospital. *East Angus W.I.* was entertained at this meeting. *Scotstown* heard a talk on chemistry by Mr. Frankland. Pamphlets from Canada Starch Co. were



given out by the Home Economics convenor. A food sale was held to aid the funds and milk tickets supplied a needy family. This meeting was held at a member's summer camp.

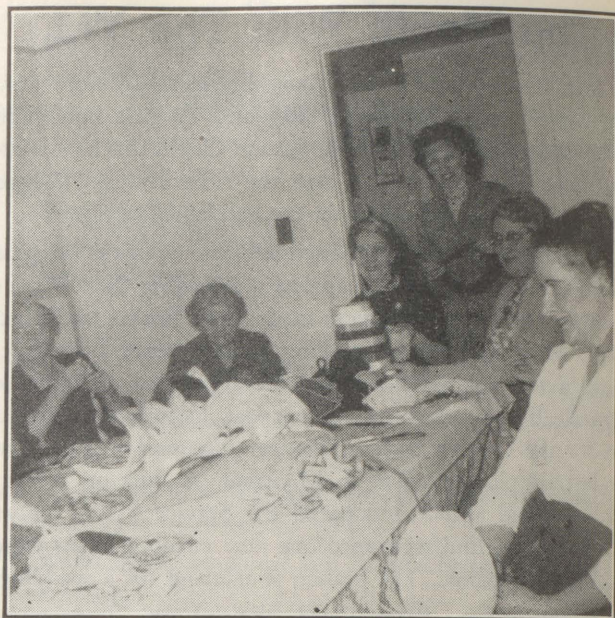
**Gatineau:** Aylmer East had talks on "Tea" by Mrs. Wright and "Germs" by Mrs. Hopkins. Mrs. Fuller reviewed Dr. Percival's, "Should We All Think Alike"? Breckenbridge discussed the school fair list and handed out remnants donated by Eaton's and Simpson's. Eardley's rollcall was how to prevent accidents and Mrs. Merrifield gave a paper, "Safety on the Highway" Projects were arranged for the children at the School Fair. "What Am I" was the name of the contest. A few members of Renfrew W.I., Ontario, were present. Kazabazua heard a report of the first Aid and Home Nursing Courses recently completed. Gifts were presented to the two nurses who helped in the Nursing course. Cookies were the contest here. Lakeview gave \$5 to the South Hull JWI, newly organized by this branch. A successful tea was held and plans are being made for a summer sale. Lower Eardley toured Britain and Europe, through slides shown by Miss Bowman and Miss Shouldice. A historical sketch of Lower Eardley was read by Mrs. Watson, who received congratulations on being appointed Q.W.I. Citizenship Convenor. Rupert's members are planning to contribute a bushel of canned goods to be sold at a dance and \$5 was given to each school to help their picnic. "Boy's Names" was the title of this contest. Wright had a sale of home cooking and a mystery box as their money-raisers. Books were donated to the hospital and \$2 sent for gifts to Ceylon. Consumer guides were distributed and an article read on the Boer war.

**Jacques-Cartier:** Ste. Annes had a discussion on dangerous toys. A project was launched on plant growing. The convenor of Agriculture, Mrs. Wishart, gave each member a potted slip to care for until September when the judging will be held—a fine if the plant is not brought in!

**Megantic:** Inverness discussed catering for a wedding and some material was sold.

**Missisquoi:** Cowansville heard a paper on "Organic Gardening" and convenors' reports included items on Helen Keller and UNESCO. Dunham has taken out a membership in the UN Association in Canada. Hidden names in food formed the contest and \$10 was voted for school prizes. Fordyce had a sale of holders, the proceeds going to the Anniversary Fund. Stanbridge East answered the rollcall with a fact about the Union Jack, followed by a Flag presentation ceremony. Several guests were welcomed, including a W.I. member from England and a U.S. friend. Congratulations were extended to Mrs. G. D. Harvey, newly elected Q.W.I. president, a member of this branch. Proceeds from the sale of aprons were given to the Memorial Hall.

**Papineau:** Lochaber donated the sum of \$10 to UNESCO, the only one reported this month.



A few of the members of the Ste. Anne W.I. at the Hatmaking Course. Left to right: Mrs. G. Brewster, Mrs. Norcott, Mrs. Baile, Mrs. Houston, Miss McQuat and Mrs. Harnott.

**Pontiac:** Bristol heard a talk on foreign affairs by Mr. Lofti and held a white elephant sale. Clarendon had a debate, "Resolved that Wealth is more Advantageous than Education". Donated articles were sold by auction. Elmside had a health quiz and readings on "Safe Swimming". Quyon had a demonstration on bandaging and donated \$10 to the Salvation Army. Shawville had Mr. Harry Gerber as guest speaker on "The Hilton Mine at Bristol". Stark's Corners served for the Community Hospital. Wyman had a demonstration on salad making. A membership in the CAC was taken out and a subscription sent to the Federated News.

**Richmond:** Cleveland held a quiz on W.I. County and Branch officers. Denison's Mills planned a 25th wedding anniversary party for their oldest member. A successful sale was held. Gore had a contest on best centrepiece made from wild flowers. A dance is to be held. Richmond Hill had a quiz on Health and papers were read on "Polio" and "Going on a Diet". A branch history was discussed. Shipton has completed a course in Millinery; 44 hats were made. Spooner Pond also had a course, jewellery and slippers, when 22 pairs of slippers were made and 48 articles of jewellery. A life membership was given to Mrs. R. Blanchard, and blankets to a family whose house was burned.

**Rouville:** Abbotsford heard an informative talk on Civil Defence by Mrs. Ossington. A food sale was held to aid the treasury.

**Shefford:** Granby Hill had "Beauty Spots in Canada" for the rollcall and plans were made for the Fall Sale. Granby West plans were for the annual picnic. A paper on Agriculture was read and two contests completed the program. South Roxton had the picnic, for members and friends. Grandmothers have been entertained, with



contests forming the program. Two picnic tables have been placed in prominent sites. *Waterloo-Warden* had an article on growth and care of bulbs. The CAC Bulletin was read and a contest held, "Vacationing in Canada". Dish towels were sold to raise funds.

**Sherbrooke:** Ascot observed past-president's day with Mrs. W. S. Mitchell presiding as their representative, seven of them attending. Colour slides on garden planning were shown and a zinnia contest arranged for the fall. Mrs. Pearson read a history of the W.I. in Canada, prepared by a former member, and Mrs. Richardson told of her trip to California. Reports were heard from a meeting of the Home & School Association in Montreal and a visit to a school for Retarded Children while in the city. *Belvidere* is making plans to enter the Tweedsmuir Competition. Two articles, "Hatchery in the School" and "Immigration" were read and the Home Economics convenor reported on the Millinery course. A member from this branch had the monthly broadcast, using the topic "School Fairs". *Brompton Road* heard a paper on "Flower Arrangements and Designs", by Miss Winget, who donated bulbs to be sold by auction. Mrs. Decoteau, Welfare & Health, reported 13 bed pads and 150 dressings made for the Cancer Clinic, and Mrs. McLeod, Home Economics, gave hints on stain removal. The CAC membership was renewed. *Lennoxville* heard an article on "Citizenship" and the importance of New Canadians taking the Oath of Allegiance. A weaving exhibit from Norway was on display. *Milby* heard a talk on the work of "le Cercle" at Compton, by Mrs. Marc St. Laurent. An idea for a picnic table was the rollcall, with the "idea" brought for a sale.



Miss J. McOuat and Mrs. B. Turner, past-president of Sherbrooke County W.I. at closing of Lennoxville Workshop.

**Stanstead:** *Ayer's Cliff* heard a paper "Ten Duties of a Canadian Citizen" by the Citizenship Convenor. *Beebe* plans to visit the Carnation Milk Plant and discussed a food sale. *Stanstead North* had a contest on articles made from one yard of material, a child's cobbler apron won the prize. A noon lunch at an auction sale assisted the treasury. The subscription to Canadian Geographic Magazine for the Grace Libby Memorial Library, Sunnyside School, was renewed. *Way's Mills* donated \$5 for the use of the hospital bed. For rollcall each member brought a wild flower, naming it and telling anything interesting they might know about it. The contest here was Sandwiches.

(Continued from page 4)

rainfall is not sufficient it may be supplemented with a thorough soaking every four or five days so that the soil is moist at least to the depth of one foot. Watering should be done in the late afternoon or early evening, as there will be less evaporation at that time, and on the soil rather than on the foliage.

Perennials will benefit from a summer mulch and a winter mulch is a necessity. The summer mulch may consist of a two-inch layer of peatmoss, partially rotted leaves or grass clippings, which will make less cultivation necessary, conserve moisture in the soil and help maintain an even soil temperature. Winter mulches protect the plants from severe cold, maintain an even soil temperature which prevents excessive freezing and thawing causing the uprooting of many choice plants. More injury is caused in the winter by drying winds than by severe cold and a good mulch will lessen this type of injury. By maintaining a more even soil temperature the plants will be protected from heaving and also from starting into growth too early in the spring. Without winter mulch, perennials in sunny locations would be apt to start growing with the first warm days in early spring, only to be badly injured by succeeding frosty days. Straw, strawy manure or leaves from hardwood trees, held in place by evergreen boughs, will give adequate protection but should only be applied after the ground has frozen and the plants are dormant. If the mulch is put on too soon, late succulent growth is encouraged which will winterkill.

Every five or six years most perennials should be lifted and divided, and the soil renovated. Usually this is done in the fall and the whole border may be renovated in one season or gradually over a period of several years. The plants are lifted, divided if necessary and well-rotted manure dug into the soil, then the perennials are planted again.





## THE COLLEGE PAGE

### The Macdonald Clan

*Notes and News of Staff Members and Former Students*

### Farm Day, 1956

The first week in August was chosen for Farm Day this year in contrast to the usual date in June. The feeling of the staff was that our visitors, coming always at the same season, were seeing the same things year after year, and that a change should be made. So Farm Day was set for early August and two days were planned; an English-language programme for the first day and a French-language one for the following day.

In a normal season, the first week in August would come just between haying and harvesting; a time when farmers could take a day off without a guilty feeling about being away from their work. But this summer haying was still in progress in most parts of the province, the weather was ideal when Farm Day came along, and a great many people who had planned to make the trip decided at the last moment that they couldn't spare the time. Attendance at the English day was disappoint-

ingly small, but on the second day the French farmers turned up in much more satisfying numbers, estimated at about three hundred.

The programme was based on cereal crops and the visitors had a chance to examine blocks of standing grain of all the varieties on the Quebec Seed Board's recommended list and heard discussion of the merits and faults of each. They were shown, by actual demonstration, how crosses are made between varieties, how the resulting strains are multiplied, selected and tested; many were surprised to learn that the original cross which resulted in the new Shefford variety was made more than 20 years ago, the intervening years having been taken up with selecting and testing hundreds of strains until the right one was found.

The late season interfered with the demonstration that had been planned for the Seed Farm. Here all types of cereal harvesting machinery had been assembled and it had been planned to show the combines and other machines





actually working in the crop. However, nothing was ripe so that part of the demonstration had to be abandoned. Nevertheless, our visitors learned at first hand how seed is produced on the Seed Farm (which is operated jointly by the College and the Quebec Department of Agriculture, and what exacting care must be taken to assure that the varieties remain pure).

The Department of Agriculture, particularly the Extension Department, was well represented, Mr. Ernest Dube and many of his agronomes being on hand, and the staff is indebted to the bi-lingual agronomes who helped out with the demonstrations on the French day.

The first picture in the top row shows Dean George Dion welcoming the visitors, and the second shows some of the crowd listening to his description of the work of the College departments. In the third picture are shown some of the visitors during the tour of the Agronomy fields. First in the bottom row we see Prof. Malloch of the Agricultural Engineering Department at the Seed Farm explaining how to adjust a seeder, and in the middle photo Prof. Brawn of Agronomy is explaining the mechanics of making crosses between two varieties of grain. A large-scale model of an oat seed helped put his points across. In the last picture Prof. Klinck, also of Agronomy, is waist-deep in Roxton oats as he points out the characteristics of the different varieties.

## Macdonald Sire Proves Himself In England

Ten years ago the Animal Husbandry Department sold Macdonald Ajax Topmark to the W. J. Newman Farms Ltd. in Essex, England. Some interesting information about the performance of this bull has been received from R. N. Sadler, one of the directors of the Farms

Burnham (Imp 46) Ajax Topmark (Canadian name: Macdonald Ajax Topmark) has achieved Register of Merit standard and already has 21 RM daughters with 37 RM and seven daughters with nine 20,000-lb. records. "His progeny are not merely high producers," writes Mr. Sadler, "they are handsome, short-legged cows with grand udders and excellent hind legs. It is to be regretted that this grand old bull died last month at the age of 11 years."

A complete list of all records of his daughters is most impressive with 24 first calf records above 12,000 lbs., seven above 14,000 lbs., with a top of 18,412 lbs. As second calvers there are nine above 16,000 lbs., with top records of 22,141, 22,831 and 20,602 lbs. Nine of the 16 third calvers made over 17,000 lbs. with top records of 23,362 lbs. in 365 days; 22,435 lbs. in 304 days; 20,352 lbs. in 308 days; 20,938 lbs. in 337 days; and 20,489 lbs. in 315 days. Four have completed their fourth records with 22,805, 17,992 and 17,375 lbs. in 365 days and 19,181 lbs. in 347 days.

This successful sire was bred at Macdonald College and is a son of Montvic Rag Apple Ajax (Ex-Extra) out of their noted "Topsy" family. His dam, Macdonald R. A. Topsy (V.G.) is a daughter of Montvic Rag Apple Trojan (VG) with an Honor List 4-year-old 305-day, 3X record of 17,882 milk and 612 fat followed by a 5-year-old, 365-day, 3X production of 20,788 milk, 3.86%, 802 fat. Her dam, Macdonald Rag Apple Burke 2nd (VG) was a double granddaughter of Montvic Chieftain 10th and made a junior 4-year-old, 365-day, 3X Honor List record of 21,027 milk, 3.81%, 802 fat. Her sire is Macdonald Chieftain, a son of their 196,384-lbs. Macdonald Oleana Supreme who is still Canadian champion with 848 lbs. fat in 305 days, 3X at junior 3 years.

## New C.S.G.A. President



Dr. Emile Lods, Commander of the Order of Agricultural Merit and director of the Provincial Seed Farm, was elected president of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, which held its annual meeting in July at Amherst, N.S. Other Quebec agronomists on the board of directors are Paul Methot of the

Quebec Department of Agriculture and Prof. Harold Klinck of Macdonald College.

## Will Plastics Replace Nature's Egg Shells?

Believe it or not, plastics may soon replace egg shells!

"The shell a hen puts around her egg isn't a very good container, after all," says Cornell University's Professor L. B. Darrah. "It breaks easily, and has pores that let in bacteria which spoil it."

So Darrah and his associates have started putting eggs in polyethylene packets that replace the shell. The packet has 12 cup-like compartments, each holding an egg or two depending on size.

A machine breaks the eggs, drops them into the cups, then adds carbon dioxide to make them keep longer. It seals a plastic film over the top of each cup, which resembles the plastic containers that you sometimes get jelly in at restaurants.

The housewife can see what kind of eggs she's getting," says Darrah. "What's more, she can cut off one or more of the packets, drop them into hot water to boil or poach the eggs; then strip off the top film and serve the eggs right in the cups."





THE MACDONALD LASSIE















